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Unless the context requires otherwise, references in this report to "Neustar," "we," "us," the "Company" and "our" refer to NeuStar, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Overview

We are a trusted provider of real-time information and analysis using proprietary and hard to replicate data sets. Our customers use our services for commercial insights that help them promote and protect their businesses. We combine proprietary, third party and customer data sets to develop unique algorithms, models, point solutions and complete work flow solutions. Among other things, chief marketing, security, information and operating officers use these real-time insights to identify who or what is at the other end of a transaction, the geographic-context of a transaction and the most appropriate response. We provide our services in a trusted and neutral manner. Our customers access our databases through standard connections, which we believe is the most efficient and cost effective way to exchange operationally essential data in a secured environment that does not favor any particular customer or technology. Today we primarily serve customers in the Internet, communications, information services, financial services, retail, and media and advertising verticals.

We were founded to meet the technical and operational challenges of the communications industry when the U.S. government mandated local number portability in 1996. We provide the authoritative solution that the communications industry relies upon to meet this mandate. Since then, we have grown to offer a broad range of innovative services, including database services (telephone number databases, domain names, short-codes and fixed IP addresses), analytics platforms used for Internet security services, caller identification services, web performance monitoring services and real-time information and analytics services.

We provide the North American communications industry with real-time information that enables the dynamic routing of virtually all telephone calls and text messages among competing carriers in the United States and Canada. Our internet and eCommerce customers use our broad array of domain name systems, or DNS, solutions to resolve internet queries in a timely manner and to protect their businesses from malicious attacks. We also provide a broad suite of solutions that allow our customers to generate marketing leads, offer more relevant services and improve client conversion rates.

Background

With the advent of competition in telecommunications markets, local number portability, the Internet and mobility, the routing of communications among thousands of service providers worldwide has become significantly more complex. In addition, we believe companies are utilizing an increasing amount and variety of data and analytics to promote their brands, protect their businesses and direct their operations. We help simplify this complex environment and address the market demand for better information and commercial insights by providing real-time information and analytics.

Our carrier customers seek information and insights that will help them improve the efficiency and profitability of their networks and services, including migration to hosted services and new technologies. This migration is driven by increasingly complex technical and operating challenges. For example, service providers are accelerating the development of broadband wireless and next generation IP networks that are capable of delivering new, voice, messaging, data and video services. The resulting complexity requires more efficient solutions to exchange information to ensure successful interconnection of today's networks and services.

The increasing complexity of the communications industry has produced operational challenges, as the in-house network management and back office systems of traditional carriers were not designed to capture all of the

information necessary for provisioning, authorizing, routing and billing these new services. In particular, it has become significantly more difficult for carriers to:

- *Locate end-users.* Identify the appropriate destination for a given communication among multiple networks and unique addresses, such as wireline and wireless phone numbers as well as IP and email addresses;
- *Establish identity.* Authenticate that the users of the communications networks are who they represent themselves to be and that they are authorized to use the services being provided;
- *Connect.* Route the communication across disparate networks;
- *Manage communications traffic.* Authorize and account for the exchange of communications traffic across multiple networks; and
- *Process transactions.* Capture, process and clear accounting records for billing, and generate settlement data for inter-provider compensation.

Enterprises in the United States and throughout the world have become increasingly reliant on the Internet and other DNS-based systems to support their businesses. With the growth in e-commerce and the continuing growth of advanced DNS-based communication services, large and small enterprises have increased demand for:

- *Online protection.* Security protection services against Internet attacks and online fraud;
- *Network and web performance.* Website performance monitoring and testing services to improve online performance, competitive advantages and positive end-user experiences; and
- *Registry services.* Essential registry services to manage internet addresses and to access content in a reliable, prompt and secure manner.

In addition, we believe companies require an increasing amount of real-time information and analytics to promote their brands, protect their businesses and direct operations. This has resulted in higher market demand for commercial insights, which we believe will continue to grow. In particular, our customers are interested in identifying, locating and evaluating both commercial risks and opportunities. We believe that the current economic, technological, demographic and competitive trends in the market will continue to drive demand for commercial insights. Accordingly, there is an increasing demand for:

- *Identification.* Real-time identification, location and authentication services, including Caller ID;
- *Relevant Advertising.* Insights into demographic and behavioral attributes of audiences successfully to identify and attract customers; and
- *Online visibility.* Improving the visibility and accuracy of online business listings and localized searches.

Our Company

We incorporated in Delaware in 1998. Our principal executive offices are located at 21575 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling, Virginia, 20166, and our telephone number at that address is (571) 434-5400.

We are organized into three operating segments: Carrier Services, Enterprise Services and Information Services. We have a shared operations group that spans the organization to support our global infrastructure. This infrastructure has been designed to provide services that are:

- *Reliable.* Our services depend on complex technology that is configured to deliver high reliability consistent with stringent industry and customer standards. We have made a commitment to our customers to deliver high quality services meeting numerous measured service level requirements, such as system availability, response times for help desk inquiries and billing accuracy.

- *Scalable.* The modular design of our infrastructure enables capacity expansion without service interruption or quality of service degradation, and with incremental investment that provides significant economies of scale.
- *Neutral.* We provide our services in a competitively neutral way to ensure that no customer or industry segment is favored over any other. Our databases and capabilities provide competing entities with fair, equal and secure access to essential shared resources.
- *Trusted.* The data we collect are important and proprietary. Accordingly, we have implemented appropriate procedures and systems to protect the privacy and security of customer data, restrict access to our systems and protect the integrity of our databases. Our performance with respect to neutrality and security is independently audited on a regular basis.

Carrier Services

Our Carrier Services include numbering services, order management services and IP services. Our numbering services enable the dynamic routing of calls and text messages among all competing communications service providers in the United States and Canada. Our services, which include unique geographically dispersed databases, are relied upon for the intelligence that allows networks to connect seamlessly. In particular, we provide near real-time updates to the North American telephone numbering system that is essential for the accurate routing of telephone calls and text messages. Our customers also use these services to improve network performance and functionalities across diverse and complex networks. In addition, we also facilitate order management and work-flow processing among carriers, including telephone number inventory management, and allow carriers to manage and optimize the addressing and routing of IP communications.

Through our Carrier Services operating segment, we provide a range of services to our carrier customers, including:

- *Numbering services.* We operate and maintain authoritative databases that help manage the increased complexity in the communications industry. The numbering services we provide to our carrier customers using these databases include number portability administration center services, or NPAC Services, in the United States and Canada and local number portability, or LNP, services in Taiwan and Brazil, or international LNP solutions, and number inventory and allocation management. The NPAC is the world's largest and most complex number portability system with connections to over 4,800 individual customers and is a critical component of the national telecommunications network infrastructure. Our NPAC Services provide a key foundation for subscriber acquisition and for a robustly competitive telecommunications market. These services also support the industry's needs for real-time network and resource optimization, emergency preparedness and disaster recovery, and efficient telephone number utilization.
- *Order management services.* Our order management services permit our carrier customers to exchange essential operating information with multiple carriers in order to provision and manage services. We provide these services through a single interface or on-premise installations. In addition, we offer inventory management services that allow our carrier customers to efficiently manage their assigned telephone numbers and associated resources.
- *IP services.* We provide scalable IP services to global carriers and service providers that allow them to manage access for the routing of IP communications, such as multimedia messaging service. Our solutions also provide accurate and reliable routing of text messages and voice calls by identifying terminating service provider networks. In addition, we provide a solution for carriers to migrate from the public switched telephone network to IP Interconnect through mapping a phone number to an IP address for accurate and reliable routing to a carrier's network.

Enterprise Services

Our Enterprise Services include Internet infrastructure services and registry services. We provide Internet infrastructure services that our customers use in order to direct, prioritize and manage Internet traffic. In addition, enterprise customers rely on our services to optimize their website performance, including protecting against malicious traffic. Enterprises use our broad infrastructure and our unique datasets to identify the location of their online customers for a variety of purposes, including fraud prevention and marketing. We believe our registry services provide reliable, fair and secured access used for resolving top-level domain name Internet queries. We also operate the authoritative Common Short Codes registry on behalf of the U.S. wireless industry.

The range of services we offer to our enterprise customers includes:

- *Internet Infrastructure Services.* We provide a suite of DNS services to our enterprise customers built on a global directory platform. These services play a key role in directing and managing Internet traffic flow, resolving Internet queries, providing security protection against Distributed Denial of Service attacks, providing geolocation services used to enhance fraud prevention and online marketing, and monitoring, testing and measuring the performance of websites and networks.
- *Registry Services.* We operate the authoritative registries of Internet domain names for the .biz, .us, .co, .tel and .travel top-level domains. We also provide international registry gateways for China's .cn and Taiwan's .tw country-code top-level domains. All Internet communications routed to any of these domains must query a copy of our directory to ensure that the communication is routed to the appropriate destination. We also operate the authoritative Common Short Codes registry on behalf of the U.S. wireless industry. In addition, we operate the user authentication and rights management system, which supports the UltraViolet™ digital content locker that consumers use to access their entertainment content.

Information Services

Our Information Services include identification services, verification and analytics services, and local search and licensed data services. We utilize proprietary databases and solutions to inform real-time decisions on customer initiated interactions over the telephone, Internet and at points of sale. Our services correlate unique attributes, such as demographic information, projected buying behaviors and location. This allows our customers to offer consumers more relevant services and products, and leads to higher client conversion rates. Our business listings identity management services manage the placement of our customers' online local business listings on search engines, improving brand awareness and targeted advertising.

- *Identification Services.* We provide Caller ID services to carriers in the U.S. and real-time identification and location services to over 1,000 businesses in the U.S across multiple industries. Our location service enables clients to match a 10-digit phone number to a latitude and longitude, and is used for a number of applications including intelligent site planning, market scoring, and Web-based location lookup. In addition, we provide services that enable clients to remarket to non-converting prospects and to help identify whether an inbound inquiry is coming from an existing customer or a prospect.
- *Verification & Analytics Services.* We provide lead verification services that allow clients to validate customer data, enhance leads and assign a lead quality rating to each lead to provide a client the ability to contact a customer. This lead verification application has evolved into a lead scoring service, which assigns a real-time predictive score to inbound telephone and web leads and predicts which prospects are most likely to convert into customers and/or become high-value customers, or for current customers, which ones will respond to a specific up-sell offer.
- *Local Search & Licensed Data Services.* We provide an online local business listing identity management solution that serves local search platforms, national brands, authorized channel partners and local businesses. This service provides businesses and channel partners the essential tools to verify,

enhance and manage the identity of local listings on local search platforms across the Web, and offers local search platforms an accurate, complete and up-to-date database of local business listings for online publishing.

Operations

Sales Force and Marketing

As of December 31, 2012, our sales and marketing organization consisted of approximately 493 people who work together to offer our customers advanced services and solutions. Our sales teams work closely with our customers to identify and address their needs, while our marketing teams identify emerging trends and technologies that provide opportunities for broadening and offering new high value services to our customers and prospects.

We have an experienced sales and marketing staff who have extensive knowledge of the industries we serve, which helps us identify new revenue opportunities and network efficiencies. We believe we have close relationships with our customers, and we understand their systems and operations. We have worked closely with our customers to develop solutions such as national pooling, U.S. Common Short Codes, number translation services, the provisioning of service requests for Voice over Internet Protocol, or VoIP, providers, and Caller ID services.

Customer Support

Customer support personnel are responsible for the resolution of all customer inquiries and provisioning and trouble requests. Our staff works closely with our customers to ensure that our service level agreements are being met. They continually solicit customer feedback and are in charge of bringing together the appropriate internal resources to troubleshoot any problems or issues that customers may have. Performance of these individuals is measured by customer satisfaction surveys and measurements of key performance indicators.

Operational Capabilities

We provide our services through our state-of-the-art data centers and remotely hosted computer hardware that is located in third-party facilities throughout the world. Our data centers, including third-party facilities that we use, are custom designed for the processing and transmission of high volumes of transaction-related, time-sensitive data in a highly secure environment. We are committed to employing best-of-breed tools and equipment for application development, infrastructure management, operations management and information security. In general, we subscribe to the highest level of service and responsiveness available from each third-party vendor that we use. Further, to protect the integrity of our systems and ensure reliability of our systems, the major components of our networks are generally designed to eliminate any single point of failure.

We consistently meet and frequently exceed our contractual service level requirements. Our performance results for certain services are monitored internally and are subjected to independent audits on a regular basis.

Research and Development

We maintain a research and development group, the principal function of which is to develop new and innovative services and improvements to existing services, oversee quality control processes and perform application testing. Our processes surrounding the development of new services and improvements to existing services focus on the challenges our customers face. We employ industry experts in areas of technology that we believe are key to solving these challenges. Our quality control and application testing processes focus predominantly on resolving highly technical issues that are integral to the performance of our services and solutions. These issues are identified through both internal and external feedback mechanisms, and continuous

testing of our applications and systems to ensure uptime commensurate with the service level standards we have agreed to provide to our customers. As of December 31, 2012, we had approximately 143 employees dedicated to research and development, which included software engineers, quality assurance engineers, technical project managers and documentation specialists. Our research and development expense was \$13.8 million, \$17.5 million and \$29.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively.

Customers and Markets

Our customer base spans across all of our operating segments. We provide services to common customers in six verticals: Internet, communications, information services, financial services, retail, and media and advertising.

For our customers in our Internet vertical, we primarily provide infrastructure and IP services, including DDoS protection services and managed DNS services. Our Internet customers include companies that either enable Internet services or provide information and content to Internet and telephone users, such as Amazon.com Inc. and Moody's Corporation.

Within our communications vertical, we primarily provide numbering services, caller identification services and order management services. Our communications customers include Verizon Communications Inc. and AT&T Inc., Comcast Corporation, and Time Warner Cable Inc., as well as, emerging providers of VoIP services, social media, and message aggregators.

Our customers in our information services, financial services, retail and media and advertising verticals primarily use our verification and analytics services, local search and licensed data services, DDoS protection services, and managed DNS services. Our customers in our financial services and retail verticals also use our IP Services.

Our customers include over 14,000 different corporate entities, each of which is separately billed for the services we provide, regardless of whether it may be affiliated with one or more of our other customers. No single such corporate entity accounted for more than 10% of our total revenue in 2012. The amount of our revenue derived from customers inside the United States was \$480.2 million, \$571.1 million and \$776.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. The amount of our revenue derived from customers outside the United States was \$40.7 million, \$49.4 million and \$55.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. The amount of our revenue derived under our contracts with North American Portability Management LLC, or NAPM, an industry group that represents all telecommunications service providers in the United States, was \$337.1 million, \$374.4 million and \$418.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively, representing 65%, 60% and 50% of our revenue for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011, and 2012, respectively. Our total revenue from our contracts with NAPM includes revenues from our NPAC Services, connection services related to our NPAC Services and NPAC-related system enhancements.

Our operating segments, Carrier Services, Enterprise Services and Information Services, are the same as our reportable segments. For further discussion of the operating results of our segments, including revenue, segment contribution, consolidated income from continuing operations, total long-lived assets, goodwill, and intangible assets, as well as information concerning our international operations, see Note 6 and Note 17 to our Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of Part II of this report.

Competition

Our services most frequently compete against the in-house systems of our customers. We believe our services offer greater reliability and flexibility on a more cost-effective basis than these in-house systems.

With respect to our roles as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, National Pooling Administrator, administrator of local number portability for the communications industry, operator of the sole authoritative registry for the .us and .biz Internet domain names, and operator of the sole authoritative registry for U.S. Common Short Codes, there are no other providers currently providing the services we offer. We were awarded the contracts to administer these services in open and competitive procurement processes in which we competed against companies including Accenture plc, Computer Sciences Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company, International Business Machines Corporation, or IBM, Noblis, Inc., Nortel Networks Corporation, Pearson Education, Inc., Perot Systems Corporation, Telcordia Technologies, Inc., which is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of LM Ericsson Telephone Company, and VeriSign, Inc. We have renewed or extended the term of several of these contracts since they were first awarded to us. Prior to the expiration of our contracts in June 2015 to provide NPAC Services in the United States, our competitors may submit proposals to replace us as the provider of the services covered by these contracts. In addition, NAPM has initiated a selection process for the administration of NPAC services upon the expiration of our existing NPAC contracts in June 2015. Similarly, with respect to our contracts to act as the North American Number Plan Administrator, the National Pooling Administrator, operator of the authoritative registry for the .us and .biz Internet domain names, and the operator of the authoritative registry for U.S. Common Short Codes, the relevant counterparty could elect not to exercise the extension period under the contract, if applicable, or to terminate the contract in accordance with its terms, in which case we could be forced to compete with other providers to continue providing the services covered by the relevant contract. In addition, the current .us contract expires in 2013 and the U.S. Department of Commerce will conduct a Request for Proposal in which we will participate for a new contract. However, we believe that our position as the incumbent provider of these various services with what we believe to be a high level of performance gives us an advantage in competing for contract renewals or for new contracts to continue to provide these services.

While we do not face direct competition for the registry of .us and .biz Internet domain names, other than as noted above, we compete with other companies that maintain the registries for different domain names, including VeriSign, Inc., which manages the .com and .net registries, Afilias Limited, which manages the .org and .info registries, and a number of managers of country-specific domain name registries, such as .uk for domain names in the United Kingdom.

We compete against a range of providers of carrier, enterprise and information services, as well as the in-house network management and information technology organizations of our customers. Our competitors, other than in-house network systems, generally fall into these categories:

- systems integrators such as Accenture plc, Hewlett-Packard Company, IBM, Oracle Corporation and Perot Systems Corporation, which develop customized solutions for carriers and in some cases operate and manage certain back-office systems for carriers on an outsourced basis;
- with respect to our Order Management Services, companies such as Synchronoss Technologies, Inc., Telcordia Technologies, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of LM Ericsson Telephone Company, and Syniverse Technologies, Inc., which offer communication services, including inter-carrier order processing and workflow management on an outsourced basis;
- with respect to our Internet Infrastructure Services, companies such as Akamai Technologies, Inc., Afilias Limited, F5 Networks, Inc., Keynote Systems, Inc., Compuware Corporation, and VeriSign, Inc., which compete with us in one or more of our DNS Services, including internal and external managed DNS services, network monitoring and load testing; and
- with respect to our Information Services, companies such as TNS, Inc., eBureau, LLC, Acxiom, Nielsen Holdings N.V., DataLogix International Inc. and infoGROUP Inc., which compete with us in Caller ID, lead verification and scoring and market analytics with respect to relevant online advertising solutions and local search business listings.

Competitive factors in the market for our services include breadth and quality of services offered, reliability, security, cost-efficiency, and customer support. Our ability to compete successfully depends on numerous factors, both within and outside our control, including:

- our responsiveness to customers' needs;
- our ability to support existing and new industry standards and protocols;
- our ability to continue development of technical innovations; and
- the quality, reliability, security and price-competitiveness of our services.

We may not be able to compete successfully against current or future competitors and competitive pressures that we face may materially and adversely affect our business. See "Risk Factor — Risks Related to Our Business — The market for our carrier, enterprise and information services is competitive, and if we do not adapt to rapid technological change, we could lose customers or market share." in Item 1A of this report.

Employees

As of December 31, 2012, we had 1,543 employees. None of our employees are currently represented by a labor union. We have not experienced any work stoppages and consider our relationship with our employees to be good.

Contracts

We provide many of our services pursuant to private commercial and government contracts. Specifically, in the United States, we provide wireline and wireless number portability, implement the allocation of pooled blocks of telephone numbers and provide network management services pursuant to seven regional contracts with NAPM. Although the Federal Communications Commission, or FCC, has plenary authority over the administration of telephone number portability, it is not a party to our contracts with NAPM. The North American Numbering Council, a federal advisory committee to which the FCC has delegated limited oversight responsibilities, reviews and oversees NAPM's management of these contracts. See "— Regulatory Environment — Telephone Numbering." We recognized revenue under our contracts with NAPM primarily on a per-transaction basis through December 31, 2008, and the aggregate fees for transactions processed under these contracts were determined by the total number of transactions.

In January 2009, we amended our seven regional contracts with NAPM to provide for an annual fixed-fee pricing model under which the annual fixed fee, or Base Fee, was set at \$340.0 million, \$362.1 million, \$385.6 million and \$410.7 million in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively, and is subject to an annual price escalator of 6.5% in subsequent years. In the event that the volume of transactions in a given year is above or below the contractually established volume range for that year, the Base Fee may be adjusted up or down, respectively, with any such adjustment being applied in the following year. The amendments also provide for a fixed credit of \$40.0 million in 2009, \$25.0 million in 2010 and \$5.0 million 2011, which were applied to reduce the Base Fee for the applicable year. Additional credits of up to \$15.0 million annually in 2009, 2010 and 2011 could have been triggered if the customers reached certain levels of aggregate telephone number inventories and adopted and implemented certain IP fields and functionality.

During 2009, our customers adopted and implemented these IP fields and functionality, and earned \$7.5 million of the additional credits as a result, but did not reach the levels of aggregate telephone number inventories required to earn additional credits. During 2010 and 2011, our customers earned all of the available additional credits of \$15.0 million for the adoption and implementation of certain IP fields and functionality and the attainment of specific levels of aggregate telephone number inventories.

Under the fixed-fee model, our fees are billed to telecommunications service providers based on their allocable share of the total transaction charges. This allocable share is based on each respective

telecommunications service provider's share of the aggregate end-user services revenues of all U.S. telecommunications service providers as determined by the FCC. Under these contracts, we also bill a revenue recovery collections, or RRC, fee of a percentage of monthly billings to our customers, which is available to us if any telecommunications service provider fails to pay its allocable share of total transaction charges. If the RRC fee is insufficient for that purpose, these contracts also provide for the recovery of such differences from the remaining telecommunications service providers. Under these contracts, users of our directory services also pay fees to connect to our data center and additional fees for reports that we generate at the user's request. Our contracts with NAPM continue through June 2015. On February 5, 2013, the NAPM released a Request for Proposal for the selection of the next local number portability administrator under new contracts that will take effect upon expiration of the current contracts. We will compete for these contracts and to remain as the local number portability administrator.

We also provide wireline and wireless number portability and network management services in Canada pursuant to a contract with the Canadian LNP Consortium Inc., a private corporation composed of telecommunications service providers who participate in number portability in Canada. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission oversees the Canadian LNP Consortium's management of this contract. We bill each telecommunications service provider for our services under this contract primarily on a per-transaction basis. In July 2010, this contract was amended to continue through December 2016. The services we provide under the contracts with NAPM and the Canadian LNP Consortium are subject to rigorous performance standards, and we are subject to corresponding penalties for failure to meet those standards.

We serve as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator and the National Pooling Administrator pursuant to two separate contracts with the FCC. Under these contracts, we administer the assignment and implementation of new area codes in North America, the allocation of central office codes (which are the prefixes following the area codes) to telecommunications service providers in the United States, and the assignment and allocation of pooled blocks of telephone numbers in the United States in a manner designed to conserve telephone number resources. The North American Numbering Plan Administration contract is a fixed-fee government contract that was originally awarded by the FCC to us in 2003. In July 2012, we were awarded a new contract to serve as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator for a term not to exceed 5 years. The National Pooling Administration contract was originally awarded to us by the FCC in 2001. Under this contract, we perform the administrative functions associated with the allocation of pooled blocks of telephone numbers in the United States. The terms of this contract provide for a fixed fee associated with the administration of the pooling system. In August 2007, the FCC awarded us a new contract to continue as the National Pooling Administrator. The initial contract term was two years, commencing in August 2007, and the contract had three one-year extension options, each of which was exercised by the FCC. In February 2013, the FCC extended the Pooling Administration contract until June 14, 2013.

We are the operator of the .biz Internet top-level domain by contract with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN. The .biz contract was originally granted to us in May 2001. In December 2006, ICANN extended our .biz contract through June 30, 2013. Similarly, pursuant to a contract with the U.S. Department of Commerce, we operate the .us Internet top-level domain. This contract was originally awarded in October 2001. In October 2007, the government renewed our .us contract for a period of three years. This term may be extended by the government for two additional one-year periods. In response to a bid protest filed by one of our competitors, the Department of Commerce evaluated the procedures it followed in awarding to us the .us contract. Pending resolution of this evaluation, performance under our new .us contract was stayed, and the terms of our previous .us contract remained in effect. The evaluation was completed in August 2008 and the terms of the new .us contract were amended. In August 2012, the Department of Commerce exercised the second of its two one-year extension options to extend the contract through August 31, 2013. The Department of Commerce has issued a Notice of Inquiry seeking public comment on what terms should be incorporated in the .us contract after the expiration of the current contract. We expect the Department of Commerce to issue a Request for Proposal for a new .us contract to take effect upon expiration of the current contract. We intend to compete for the new .us contract to remain as the registry for that top-level domain. The .biz and .us contracts allow us to provide domain name registration services to domain name registrars, who pay us on a per-name basis.

We have an exclusive contract with the CTIA — The Wireless Association® to serve as the registry operator for the administration of U.S. Common Short Codes. U.S. Common Short Codes are short strings of numbers to which text messages can be addressed — a common addressing scheme that works across all participating wireless networks. We were awarded this contract in October 2003 through an open procurement process by the major wireless carriers. In June 2008, the contract was amended to include a term through December 2015. We provide U.S. Common Short Code registration services to wireless content providers, who pay us subscription fees per U.S. Common Short Code registered.

Regulatory Environment

Telephone Numbering

Overview. Congress enacted the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to remove barriers to entry in the communications market. Among other things, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 mandates portability of telephone numbers and requires traditional telephone companies to provide non-discriminatory access and interconnection to potential competitors. The FCC has plenary jurisdiction over issues relating to telephone numbers, including telephone number portability and the administration of telephone number resources. Under this authority, the FCC promulgated regulations governing the administration of telephone numbers and telephone number portability. In 1995, the FCC established the North American Numbering Council, a federal advisory committee, to advise and make recommendations to the FCC on telephone numbering issues, including telephone number resources administration and telephone number portability. The members of the North American Numbering Council include representatives from local exchange carriers, interexchange carriers, wireless providers, VoIP providers, manufacturers, state regulators, consumer groups, and telecommunications associations.

Telephone Number Portability. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires telephone number portability, which is the ability of users of telecommunications services to retain existing telephone numbers without impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when switching from one telecommunications service provider to another. Through a series of competitive procurements, a consortium of service providers representing the communications industry selected us to develop, build and operate a solution to enable telephone number portability in the United States. We ultimately entered into seven regional contracts to administer the system that we developed, after which the North American Numbering Council recommended to the FCC, and the FCC approved, our selection to serve as a neutral administrator of telephone number portability. The FCC also directed the seven original regional entities, each comprising a consortium of service providers operating in the respective regions, to manage and oversee the administration of telephone number portability in their respective regions, subject to North American Numbering Council oversight. Under the rules and policies adopted by the FCC, NAPM, as successor in interest to the seven regional consortiums, has the power and authority to manage and negotiate changes to the current master agreements.

On November 3, 2005, BellSouth Corporation, or BellSouth, filed a petition with the FCC seeking changes in the way our customers are billed for services provided by us under our contracts with NAPM. In response to the BellSouth petition, the FCC requested comments from interested parties. As of February 21, 2013, the FCC had not initiated a formal rulemaking process, and the BellSouth petition remains pending. Similarly, on May 20, 2011, Verizon Communications Inc. and Verizon Wireless Inc. filed a joint petition, the Verizon Petition, with the FCC seeking a ruling that certain carrier initiated modifications of NPAC records be excluded from the costs of the shared NPAC database and be paid for instead by the provider that caused such costs to be incurred. In response to the Verizon Petition, the FCC requested comments from interested parties. As of February 21, 2013, the FCC had not initiated a formal rulemaking process and the Verizon Petition remains pending.

After the amendment of our contracts with NAPM in September 2006, Telcordia Technologies, Inc. filed a petition with the FCC requesting an order that would require NAPM to conduct a new bidding process to appoint a provider of telephone number portability services in the United States. In response to our amendment of these contracts in January 2009, Telcordia filed another petition asking that the FCC abrogate these contracts and

initiate a government-managed procurement in their place. As of February 21, 2013, the FCC had not initiated a formal rulemaking process on either of these petitions, and the Telcordia petitions are still pending. Although these Telcordia petitions remain pending, we believe that they have been superseded by the initiation of a selection process to award a new contract for the administration of NPAC services at the expiration of the existing contracts. (See "Risk Factors — Risks Related to Our Business — Our seven contracts with North American Portability Management LLC represent in the aggregate a substantial portion of our revenue, are not exclusive and could be terminated or modified in ways unfavorable to us. These contracts are due to expire in June 2015 and we may not win a competitive procurement." in Item 1A of this report).

North American Numbering Plan Administrator and National Pooling Administrator. We have contracts with the FCC to act as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator and the National Pooling Administrator, and we must comply with the rules and regulations of the FCC that govern our operations in each capacity. We are charged with administering numbering resources in an efficient and non-discriminatory manner, in accordance with FCC rules and industry guidelines developed primarily by the Industry Numbering Committee. These guidelines provide governing principles and procedures to be followed in the performance of our duties under these contracts. The communications industry regularly reviews and revises these guidelines to adapt to changed circumstances or as a result of the experience of industry participants in applying the guidelines. A committee of the North American Numbering Council evaluates our performance against these rules and guidelines each year and provides an annual review to the North American Numbering Council and the FCC. If we violate these rules and guidelines, or if we fail to perform at required levels, the FCC may reevaluate our fitness to serve as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator and the National Pooling Administrator and may terminate our contracts or impose fines on us. The division of the North American Numbering Council responsible for reviewing our performance as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator and the National Pooling Administrator has determined that, with respect to our performance in 2011, we "more than met" our performance guidelines under each such respective review. Similar reviews of our performance in 2012 have not yet been completed.

Neutrality. Under FCC rules and orders establishing the qualifications and obligations of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator and National Pooling Administrator, and under our contracts with NAPM to provide telephone number portability services, we are required to comply with neutrality regulations and policies. Under these neutrality requirements, we are required to operate our numbering plan, pooling administration and number portability functions in a neutral and impartial manner, which means that we cannot favor any particular telecommunications service provider, telecommunications industry segment or technology or group of telecommunications consumers over any other telecommunications service provider, industry segment, technology or group of consumers in the conduct of those businesses. We are examined periodically on our compliance with these requirements by independent third parties. The combined effect of our contracts and the FCC's regulations and orders requires that we:

- not be a telecommunications service provider, which is generally defined by the FCC as an entity that offers telecommunications services to the public at large, and is, therefore, providing telecommunications services on a common carrier basis, or an interconnected VoIP provider;
- not be an affiliate of a telecommunications service provider or VoIP provider, which means, among other things, that we:
 - must restrict the beneficial ownership of our capital stock by telecommunications service providers, VoIP providers or affiliates of a telecommunications service provider or VoIP provider; and
 - may not otherwise, directly or indirectly, control, be controlled by, or be under common control with, a telecommunications service provider or VoIP provider;
- not derive a majority of our revenue from any single telecommunications service provider; and
- not be subject to undue influence by parties with a vested interest in the outcome of numbering administration and activities. Notwithstanding our satisfaction of the other neutrality criteria above, the

North American Numbering Council or the FCC could determine that we are subject to such undue influence. The North American Numbering Council may conduct an evaluation to determine whether we meet this “undue influence” criterion.

We are required to maintain confidentiality of competitive customer information obtained during the conduct of our business. In addition, as part of our neutrality framework, we are required to comply with a code of conduct that is designed to ensure our continued neutrality. Among other things, our code of conduct, which was approved by the FCC, requires that:

- we never, directly or indirectly, show any preference or provide any special consideration to any telecommunications service provider;
- we prohibit access by our stockholders to user data and proprietary information of telecommunications service providers served by us (other than access of employee stockholders that is incident to the performance of our numbering administration duties);
- our stockholders take steps to ensure that they do not disclose to us any user data or proprietary information of any telecommunications service provider in which they hold an interest, other than the sharing of information in connection with the performance of our numbering administration duties;
- we not share confidential information about our business services and operations with employees of any telecommunications service provider;
- we refrain from simultaneously employing, whether on a full-time or part-time basis, any individual who is an employee of a telecommunications service provider and that none of our employees hold any interest, financial or otherwise, in any company that would violate these neutrality standards;
- we prohibit any individual who serves in the management of any of our stockholders from being involved directly in our day-to-day operations;
- we implement certain requirements regarding the composition of our Board of Directors;
- no member of our Board of Directors simultaneously serves on the Board of Directors of a telecommunications service provider; and
- we hire an independent party to conduct a quarterly neutrality audit to ensure that we and our stockholders comply with all the provisions of our code of conduct.

In connection with the neutrality requirements imposed by our code of conduct and under our contracts, we are subject to a number of neutrality audits that are performed on a quarterly and annual basis. In connection with these audits, all of our employees, directors and officers must sign a neutrality certification that states that they are familiar with our neutrality requirements and have not violated them. Failure to comply with applicable neutrality requirements could result in government fines, corrective measures, curtailment of contracts or even the revocation of contracts. See “Risk Factors — Risks Related to Our Business — Failure to comply with neutrality requirements could result in loss of significant contracts” in Item 1A of this report.

In contemplation of the initial public offering of our securities, we sought and obtained FCC approval for a “safe harbor” from previous orders of the FCC that allowed us to consummate the initial public offering for our securities but required us to seek prior approval from the FCC for any change in our overall ownership structure, corporate structure, bylaws, or distribution of equity interests, as well as certain types of transactions, including the issuance of indebtedness by us. Under the safe harbor order, we are required to maintain provisions in our organizational and other corporate documents that require us to comply with all applicable neutrality rules and orders. We are no longer required to seek prior approval from the FCC for many of these changes and transactions, although we are required to provide notice of such changes or transactions. In addition, we are subject to the following requirements:

- we may not issue more than 50% of our aggregate outstanding indebtedness to any telecommunications service provider;

- we may not acquire any equity interest in a telecommunications service provider or an affiliate of a telecommunications service provider without prior approval of the FCC;
- we must restrict any telecommunications service provider or affiliate of a telecommunications service provider from acquiring or beneficially owning 5% or more of our outstanding capital stock;
- we must report to the FCC the names of any telecommunications service providers or telecommunications service provider affiliates that own a 5% or greater interest in our company;
- we must make beneficial ownership records available to our auditors, and must certify upon request that we have no actual knowledge of any ownership of our outstanding capital stock by a telecommunications service provider or telecommunications service provider affiliate other than as previously disclosed; and
- we must make our debt records available to our auditors and certify that no telecommunications service provider holds more than 50% of our aggregate outstanding indebtedness.

Internet Domain Name Registrations

We are also subject to government and industry regulation under our Internet registry contracts with the U.S. government and ICANN, the industry organization responsible for regulation of Internet top-level domains. We are the operator of the .biz Internet domain under a contract with ICANN, as described above under "Contracts." Similarly, pursuant to a contract with the U.S. Department of Commerce, we operate the .us Internet domain registry. This contract is also described above under "Contracts." Under each of these registry service contracts, we are required to:

- provide equal access to all registrars of domain names;
- comply with Internet standards established by the industry;
- implement additional policies as they are adopted by the U.S. government or ICANN; and
- with respect to the .us registry, establish, operate and ensure appropriate content on a kids.us domain to serve as a haven for material that promotes positive experiences for children and families using the Internet.

Intellectual Property

Our success depends in part upon our proprietary technology. We rely principally upon trade secret and copyright law to protect our technology, including our software, network design, and subject matter expertise. We enter into confidentiality or license agreements with our employees, distributors, customers, and potential customers and limit access to and distribution of our software, documentation, and other proprietary information. We believe, however, that because of the rapid pace of technological change, these legal protections for our services are less significant factors in our success than the knowledge, ability, and experience of our employees and the timeliness and quality of our services. In addition, where appropriate, we will seek patent protection for our proprietary technology used in our service offerings.

Available Information and Exchange Certifications

We maintain an Internet website at www.neustar.biz. Information contained on, or that may be accessed through, our website is not part of this report. Our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to reports filed or furnished pursuant to Sections 13(a) and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, are available, free of charge, on the Investor Relations section of our website under the heading "SEC Filings by NeuStar," as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such reports with, or furnish those reports to, the Securities and Exchange Commission. Our Principles of Corporate Governance, Board of Directors committee charters (including the charters of the Audit

Committee, Compensation Committee, and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee) and code of ethics entitled "Corporate Code of Business Conduct" also are available on the Investor Relations section of our website. Stockholders may request free copies of these documents, including a copy of our annual report on Form 10-K, by sending a written request to our Corporate Secretary at NeuStar, Inc., 21575 Ridgeway Circle, Sterling, VA 20166. In the event that we make any changes to, or provide any waivers from, the provisions of our Corporate Code of Business Conduct, we intend to disclose these events on our website or in a report on Form 8-K within four business days of such event.

We have filed, as exhibits to this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the certification of our principal executive officer and principal financial officer regarding the quality of our public disclosures, which is required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, under Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This report contains forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as "may," "will," "should," "expects," "intends," "plans," "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "predicts," "potential," "continue" or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology. These statements relate to future events or our future financial performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Many of these risks are beyond our ability to control or predict. These risks and other factors include those listed under "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of this report and elsewhere in this report and include:

- termination, modification or non-renewal of our contracts to provide telephone number portability and other directory services;
- failures or interruptions of our systems and services;
- loss of, or damage to, a data center;
- security or privacy breaches;
- adverse changes in statutes or regulations affecting the communications industry;
- our failure to adapt to rapid technological change in the communications industry;
- competition from our customers' in-house systems or from other providers of carrier, enterprise, or information services;
- our failure to achieve or sustain market acceptance at desired pricing levels;
- a decline in the volume of transactions we handle;
- inability to manage our growth;
- economic, political, regulatory and other risks associated with our further potential expansion into international markets;
- inability to obtain sufficient capital to fund our operations, capital expenditures and expansion; and
- loss of members of senior management, or inability to recruit and retain skilled employees.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Risks related to our business

The loss of, or damage to, a data center or any other failure or interruption to our network infrastructure could materially harm our revenue and impair our ability to conduct our operations.

Because virtually all of the services we provide require our customers to query a copy of our continuously updated databases and directories to obtain necessary routing, operational and marketing data, the integrity of our data centers, including network elements managed by third parties throughout the world, and the systems through which we deliver our services are essential to our business. Notably, certain of our data centers and related systems are essential to the orderly operation of the U.S. telecommunications system because they enable carriers to ensure that telephone calls are routed to the appropriate destinations.

Our system architecture is integral to our ability to process a high volume of transactions in a timely and effective manner. Moreover, both we and our customers rely on hardware, software and other equipment developed, supported and maintained by third-party providers. We could experience failures or interruptions of our systems and services, or other problems in connection with our operations, as a result of, for example:

- damage to, or failure of, our computer software or hardware or our connections to, and outsourced service arrangements with, third parties;
- failure of, or defects in, the third-party systems, software or equipment on which we or our customers rely to access our data centers and other systems;
- errors in the processing of data by our systems;
- computer viruses, malware or software defects;
- physical or electronic break-ins, sabotage, distributed denial of service, or DDoS, penetration attacks, intentional acts of vandalism and similar events;
- increased capacity demands or changes in systems requirements of our customers;
- virtual hijacking of traffic destined to our systems;
- power loss, communications failures, pandemics, wars, acts of terrorism, political unrest or other man-made or natural disasters; and
- successful DDoS attacks.

We may not have sufficient redundant systems or back-up facilities to allow us to receive and process data if one of the foregoing events occurs. Further, increases in the scope of services that we provide increase the complexity of our network infrastructure. As the scope of services we provide expands or changes in the future, we may be required to make significant expenditures to establish new data centers and acquire additional network capacity from which we may provide services. Moreover, as we add customers, expand our service offerings and increase our visibility in the market we may become a more likely target of attacks similar to those listed in the bullets above. The number of electronic attacks and viruses grows significantly every year, as does the sophistication of these attacks. For example, undetected attackers may be able to monitor unencrypted Internet traffic anywhere in the world and modify it before it reaches our destination, and these attackers may harm our customers by stealing personal or proprietary information, Internet email or IP addresses. If we are not able to react to threats quickly and effectively and stop attackers from exploiting vulnerabilities or circumventing our security measures, the integrity of our systems and networks, and those of our customers and trading partners, may be adversely affected. If we cannot adequately secure and protect the ability of our data centers, offices, networks and related systems to perform consistently at a high level and without interruptions, or if we otherwise fail to meet our customers' expectations:

- our reputation may be damaged, which may adversely affect our ability to market our services and attract or retain customers;
- we may be subject to significant penalties or damages claims, under our contracts or otherwise;

- we may be required to make significant expenditures to repair or replace equipment, third-party systems or an entire data center, to establish new data centers and systems from which we may provide services or to take other required corrective action; or
- one or more of our significant contracts may be terminated early, or may not be renewed.

Any of these consequences would adversely affect our revenue, performance and business prospects.

If our security measures are breached and personally identifiable information is obtained by an unauthorized person, we may be subject to litigation and our services may also be perceived as not being secure and customers may curtail or stop using our services.

Many of our products and services, such as our registry, UltraViolet™, mobile and information service offerings may involve the storage and transmission of consumer information, such as names, addresses, email addresses and other personally identifiable information, and security breaches could expose us to a risk of loss of this information, litigation and possible liability. If someone obtains unauthorized access to consumers' data, as a result of third-party action, technical malfunctions, employee error, malfeasance or otherwise, our reputation, brands and competitive position will be damaged, the adoption of our products and services could be severely limited, and we could incur costly litigation and significant liability, any of which may cause our business to suffer. Accordingly, we may need to expend significant resources to protect against security breaches, including encrypting personal information, or remedy breaches after they occur, including notifying each person whose personal data may have been compromised. The risk that these types of events could seriously harm our business is likely to increase as we expand the scale and scope of information services we offer and the number of Internet or DNS-based products and services we offer, and increase the number of countries in which we operate. Even a perceived breach of our security measures could damage the market perception of the effectiveness of our security measures and our reputation, and we could lose sales, existing and future business opportunities and customers, and potentially face costly litigation.

Our seven contracts with North American Portability Management LLC represent in the aggregate a substantial portion of our revenue, are not exclusive and could be terminated or modified in ways unfavorable to us. These contracts are due to expire in June 2015 and we may not win a competitive procurement.

Our seven contracts with North American Portability Management LLC, or NAPM, an industry group that represents all carriers in the United States, to provide NPAC Services are not exclusive and could be terminated or modified in ways unfavorable to us. These seven separate contracts, each of which represented between 4.5% and 9.2% of our total revenue in 2012, represented in the aggregate approximately 49.4% of our total revenue in 2012. These contracts have finite terms and are currently scheduled to expire in June 2015.

NAPM has initiated a selection process for the administration of NPAC services at the expiration of the current contract. The FCC Wireline Competition Bureau has released a Request for Proposal, or RFP. The selection timeline published in the RFP anticipates that the NAPM will make a recommendation to the FCC in August 2013 with the FCC approval of the recommendation to be completed in September 2013. These dates are subject to change.

We expect that there will be significant competition as a result of this process. We may not win this competitive procurement if another provider offers to provide the same or similar services at a lower cost. The failure to win the competitive procurement would have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects, financial condition and results of operations. Even if we win the competitive procurement, the new contracts may have different pricing structures or performance requirements than are currently in effect, which could negatively affect our operating performance and may result in additional costs and expenses and possibly lower revenues.

In addition, under our current contracts, NAPM could, at any time, solicit or receive proposals from other providers to provide services that are the same as or similar to ours. These contracts can be terminated or modified in advance of their scheduled expiration date in limited circumstances, most notably if we are in default

of these agreements. Although these contracts do not contain cross-default provisions, conditions leading to a default by us under one of our contracts could lead to a default under others, or all seven. If these contracts are terminated or modified in a manner that is adverse to us, it would have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects, financial condition and results of operations.

A significant decline in the volume of transactions we handle could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Under our contracts with NAPM, we earn revenue for NPAC Services on an annual, fixed-fee basis. However, in the event that the volume of transactions in a given year is above or below the contractually established volume range for that year, the fixed-fee may be adjusted up or down, respectively, with any such adjustment being applied to the following year's invoices. In addition, under our contract with the Canadian LNP Consortium Inc., we earn revenue on a per transaction basis. As a result, if industry participants in the United States reduce their usage of our services in a particular year to levels below the established volume range for that year or if industry participants in Canada reduce their usage of our services from their current levels, our revenue and results of operations may suffer. For example, consolidation in the industry could result in a decline in transactions if the remaining carriers decide to handle changes to their networks internally rather than use the services that we provide. Moreover, if customer turnover among carriers in the industry stabilizes or declines, or if carriers do not compete vigorously to lure customers away from their competitors, use of our telephone number portability and other services may decline. If carriers develop internal systems to address their infrastructure needs, or if the cost of such transactions makes it impractical for a given carrier to use our services for these purposes, we may experience a reduction in transaction volumes. Carriers might be able to charge consumers directly for our services, which could also have an adverse impact on transaction volumes. Finally, the trends that we believe will drive the future demand for our services, such as the emergence of IP services, growth of wireless services, consolidation in the industry, and pressure on carriers to reduce costs, may not actually result in increased demand for our existing services or for the ancillary directory services that we expect to offer, which would harm our future revenue and growth prospects.

Certain of our other contracts may be terminated or modified at any time prior to their completion, which could lead to an unexpected loss of revenue and damage our reputation.

In addition to our contracts with NAPM, we provide other services that generate revenue and bolster our reputation as a premier data services, infrastructure, and solutions provider to the communications sector, other major enterprises in a wide variety of sectors, trade associations, and government agencies. For example, we serve as the provider of NPAC Services in Canada; as operator of the .biz registry under contract with ICANN and the .us registry under contract with the Department of Commerce; as operator of the registry of U.S. Common Short Codes; as the provider of DNS services to a wide variety of major corporations, and as a provider of data services to major retailers and marketers. Each of these contracts provides for early termination in limited circumstances, most notably if we are in default. In addition, our contracts to serve as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator and as the National Pooling Administrator and to operate the .us registry, each of which is with the U.S. government, may be terminated by the government at will. If we fail to meet the expectations of the FCC, the U.S. Department of Commerce or any of our other major customers for any reason, including for performance-related or other reasons, the customers may unilaterally terminate or modify the contracts. A termination arising out of our default could expose us to liability, adversely affect our operating performance and lead to an unexpected loss of revenue. Further, the loss or significant modification of a major contract could cause us to suffer a loss of reputation that would make it more difficult for us to compete for contracts to provide similar services in the future.

Failure to comply with neutrality requirements could result in loss of significant contracts.

Pursuant to orders and regulations of the U.S. government and provisions contained in our material contracts, we must continue to comply with certain neutrality requirements, meaning generally that we cannot favor any particular telecommunications service provider, telecommunications industry segment or technology or

group of telecommunications consumers over any other telecommunications service provider, industry segment, technology or group of consumers in the conduct of our business. The FCC oversees our compliance with the neutrality requirements applicable to us in connection with some of the services we provide. We provide to the FCC and the North American Numbering Council, a federal advisory committee established by the FCC to advise and make recommendations on telephone numbering issues, regular certifications relating to our compliance with these requirements. Our ability to comply with the neutrality requirements to which we are subject may be affected by the activities of our stockholders or lenders. For example, if the ownership of our capital stock subjects us to undue influence by parties with a vested interest in the outcome of numbering administration, the FCC could determine that we are not in compliance with our neutrality obligations. Our failure to continue to comply with the neutrality requirements to which we are subject under applicable orders and regulations of the U.S. government and commercial contracts may result in fines, corrective measures, termination of our contracts, or exclusion from bidding on future contracts, any one of which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Regulatory and statutory changes that affect us or the communications industry in general may increase our costs or otherwise adversely affect our business.

Certain of our domestic operations and many of our customers' operations are subject to regulation by the FCC and other federal, state and local agencies. As communications technologies and the communications industry continue to evolve, the statutes governing the communications industry or the regulatory policies of the FCC may change. If this were to occur, the demand for many of our services could change in ways that we cannot predict and our revenue could decline. These risks include the ability of the federal government, most notably the FCC and the Department of Commerce, to:

- increase or change regulatory oversight over services we provide;
- adopt or modify statutes, regulations, policies, procedures or programs in ways that are disadvantageous to the services we provide, or that are inconsistent with our current or future plans, or that require modification of the terms of our existing contracts or contracts like the NPAC or .us registry that are subject to a competitive procurement process, including the manner in which we charge for certain of our services. For example,
 - in November 2005 and in 2010, major carriers filed petitions with the FCC seeking changes in the way our customers are billed for services provided by us under our contracts with North American Portability Management LLC; Verizon Corporation filed a similar petition with the FCC in May 2011, and
 - after the amendment of our contracts with North American Portability Management LLC in September 2006, Telcordia Technologies, Inc. filed a petition with the FCC requesting an order that would require North American Portability Management LLC to conduct a new bidding process to appoint a provider of telephone number portability services in the United States. In response to our amendment of these contracts in January 2009, Telcordia filed another petition asking that the FCC abrogate these contracts and initiate a government managed procurement in their place. If successful, either of these petitions could result in the loss of one or more of our contracts with North American Portability Management LLC or otherwise frustrate our strategic plans. Although the FCC has not initiated a formal rulemaking process on either of the Telcordia petitions, the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau issued orders on March 8, 2011 and May 16, 2011 for NAPM to complete a selection process for the administration of NPAC Services at the expiration of the current contracts. See "*Our seven contracts with North American Portability Management LLC represent in the aggregate a substantial portion of our revenue, are not exclusive and could be terminated or modified in ways unfavorable to us. These contracts are due to expire in June 2015 and we may not win a competitive procurement*";

- prohibit us from entering into new contracts or extending existing contracts to provide services to the communications industry based on actual or suspected violations of our neutrality requirements, business performance concerns, or other reasons;
- adopt or modify statutes, regulations, policies, procedures or programs in a way that could cause changes to our operations or costs or the operations of our customers (e.g., regulatory changes to support migration of public switched telephone network to IP Carrier Interconnect);
- appoint, or cause others to appoint, substitute or add additional parties to perform the services that we currently provide including abrogation of our contracts to provide NPAC Services; and
- prohibit or restrict the provision or export of new or expanded services under our contracts, or prevent the introduction of other services not under the contracts based upon restrictions within the contracts or in FCC policies.

In addition, we are subject to risks arising out of the delegation of the Department of Commerce's responsibilities for the domain name system to ICANN. Changes in the regulations or statutes to which our customers are subject could cause our customers to alter or decrease the services they purchase from us. We cannot predict when, or upon what terms and conditions, further regulation, deregulation or litigation designed to delay or prevent the introduction of new top-level domains might occur or the effect future regulation or deregulation may have on our business.

If we are unable to protect our intellectual property rights adequately, the value of our services and solutions could be diminished.

Our success is dependent in part on obtaining, maintaining and enforcing our proprietary rights and our ability to avoid infringing on the proprietary rights of others. While we take precautionary steps to protect our technological advantages and intellectual property and rely in part on patent, trademark, trade secret and copyright laws, we cannot assure that the precautionary steps we have taken will completely protect our intellectual property rights. Effectively policing our intellectual property is time consuming and costly, and the steps taken by us may not prevent infringement of our intellectual property or proprietary rights in our products, technology and trademarks, particularly in foreign countries where in many instances the local laws or legal systems do not offer the same level of protection as in the United States. Further, because patent applications in the United States are maintained in secrecy until either the patent application is published or a patent is issued, we may not be aware of third-party patents, patent applications and other intellectual property relevant to our services and solutions that may block our use of our intellectual property or may be used by third-parties who compete with our services and solutions. As we expand our business and introduce new services and solutions, there may be an increased risk of infringement and other intellectual property claims by third-parties. From time to time, we and our customers may receive claims alleging infringement of intellectual property rights, or may become aware of certain third-party patents that may relate to our services and solutions.

Additionally, some of our customer agreements require that we indemnify our customers for infringement claims resulting from their use of our intellectual property embedded in their products. Any litigation regarding patents or other intellectual property could be costly and time consuming and could divert our management and key personnel from our business operations. The complexity of the technology involved, and the number of parties holding intellectual property within the communications industry, increase the risks associated with intellectual property litigation. Moreover, the commercial success of our services and solutions may increase the risk that an infringement claim may be made against us. Royalty or licensing arrangements, if required, may not be available on terms acceptable to us, if at all. Any infringement claim successfully asserted against us or against a customer for which we have an obligation to defend could result in costly litigation, the payment of substantial damages, and an injunction that prohibits us from continuing to offer the service or solution in question, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results and financial condition.

The market for our carrier, enterprise and information services is competitive, and if we do not adapt to rapid technological change, we could lose customers or market share.

We compete against well-funded providers of carrier, enterprise and information services, communications software companies and system integrators that provide systems and services used by carriers and enterprises to manage their networks and internal operations in connection with telephone number portability and other communications transactions. In addition, our industry is characterized by rapid technological change and frequent new service offerings. Significant technological changes could make our technology and services obsolete. We must adapt to our rapidly changing market by continually improving the features, functionality, reliability and responsiveness of our services, and by developing new features, services and applications to meet changing customer needs. Our ability to take advantage of opportunities in the market may require us to invest in development and incur other expenses well in advance of our ability to generate revenue from these services. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to adapt to these challenges or respond successfully or in a cost-effective way, particularly in the early stages of launching a new service. Further, we may experience delays in the development of one or more features of our solutions, which could materially reduce the potential benefits to us for providing these services. In addition, there can be no assurance that our solutions will be adopted by potential customers, or that we will be able to reach acceptable contract terms with customers to provide these services. Our failure to adapt to meet market demand in a cost-effective manner could adversely affect our ability to compete and retain customers or market share.

If we are not able to obtain the data required to provide our information services, or we obtain inaccurate data, our operating results could be adversely affected.

Much of the data that we use in connection with our Information Services segment is purchased or licensed from third parties, obtained from public record sources or provided to us as part of a broader business relationship with a customer. If we are not able to obtain this data on favorable economic terms or otherwise, or if the data we obtain is inaccurate, our ability to provide information services to our clients could be materially adversely impacted, which could result in decreased revenues, net income and earnings per share.

Regulatory and statutory requirements, changes in requirements regarding privacy and data protection or public perceptions of data usage may increase our costs or otherwise adversely affect our business.

Our business operations are subject to a variety of complex privacy and data protection laws and regulations in the United States and in other jurisdictions. These statutory and regulatory requirements are evolving and may change significantly. Judicial and regulatory application and interpretation of these statutory and regulatory requirements are often uncertain. In addition, data usage both by governments and corporations is currently a matter of keen public concern and press attention. We may need to incur significant costs or modify our business practices and/or our services in order to comply with existing or revised laws and regulations, or to adapt to changing public attitudes about data usage. Any such costs or changes could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or prospects. If we are not able to comply with applicable laws, we may be subject to significant monetary penalties and/or orders demanding that we cease alleged noncompliant activities. These or other remedies could have a material adverse effect on our results of operation or financial condition. Our failure or alleged failure to comply with privacy and data protection laws, or with public attitudes about data usage, could harm our reputation, result in legal actions against us by governmental authorities or private claimants or cause us to lose customers, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or prospects.

In addition, new legislation may be passed or judicial interpretations may be issued that restrict our use of data to provide information services to our clients. Any restrictions on our ability to provide these services to our clients could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operation, financial condition and prospects.

If we are unable to manage our costs, our profits could be adversely affected.

Historically, sustaining our growth has placed significant demands on our management as well as on our administrative, operational and financial resources. For us to continue to manage our expanded operations, as well as any future growth, we must continue to improve our operational, financial and management information systems and expand, motivate and manage our workforce. If our quality of service is compromised because we are unable to successfully manage our costs, or if new systems that we implement to assist in managing our operations do not produce the expected benefits, we may experience higher turnover in our customer base and our revenue and profits could be adversely affected.

Changes in our tax rates or exposure to additional income tax liabilities could affect our profitability. In addition, audits by tax authorities could result in additional tax payments for prior periods.

We are subject to income taxes in the U.S. and in various non-U.S. jurisdictions. Our effective tax rate can be affected by changes in our mix of earnings in countries with differing statutory tax rates (including as a result of business acquisitions and dispositions), changes in the valuation of deferred tax assets and liabilities, establishment of accruals related to contingent tax liabilities and period-to-period changes in such accruals, the expiration of statutes of limitations, the implementation of tax planning strategies and changes in tax laws. The impact of these factors may be substantially different from period to period. Due to the ambiguity of tax laws and the subjectivity of factual interpretations, our estimates of income tax liabilities may differ from actual payments or assessments. In addition, our income tax returns are subject to ongoing audits by U.S. federal, state and local tax authorities and by non-U.S. tax authorities. If these audits result in payments or assessments different from our reserves, our future results may include unfavorable adjustments to our tax liabilities, which may negatively affect our results of operations.

Our operating results and margins could fluctuate due to factors relating to stock-based compensation.

Similar to many other companies, we use stock awards as a form of compensation for certain employees and non-employee directors. We must recognize the fair value of all stock-based awards, including grants of employee stock options, in our financial statements. The valuation model we use to estimate the fair value of our stock-based awards requires us to make several estimates and assumptions, such as the expected holding period of the awards and expected price volatility of our common stock. The amount we recognize for stock-based compensation expense could vary materially depending on changes in these estimates and assumptions. Other factors that could impact the amount of stock-based compensation expense we recognize include changes in the mix and type of stock-based awards we grant, changes in our compensation plans or tax rate, changes in the award forfeiture rate and differences in our company's actual operating results compared to management's estimates for performance-based awards.

Changes in accounting principles and guidance, or their interpretation, could result in unfavorable accounting charges or effects, including changes to previously filed financial statements.

We prepare our consolidated financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP. These principles are subject to interpretation by the SEC and various bodies formed to interpret and create appropriate accounting principles and guidance. A change in these principles or guidance, or in their interpretations, may have a significant effect on our reported results and may retroactively affect previously reported results.

We must recruit and retain skilled employees to succeed in our business, and our failure to recruit and retain qualified employees could harm our ability to maintain and grow our business.

We believe that an integral part of our success is our ability to recruit and retain employees who have advanced skills in the services and solutions that we provide and who work well with our customers. In particular, we must hire and retain employees with the technical expertise and industry knowledge necessary to

maintain and continue to develop our operations and must effectively manage our growing sales and marketing organization to ensure the growth of our operations. Our future success depends on the ability of our sales and marketing organization to establish direct sales channels and to develop multiple distribution channels. The employees with the skills we require are in great demand and are likely to remain a limited resource in the foreseeable future. If we are unable to recruit and retain a sufficient number of these employees at all levels, our ability to maintain and grow our business could be negatively impacted.

Our failure to achieve or sustain market acceptance of our services at desired pricing levels could impact our ability to maintain profitability or positive cash flow.

Our competitors and customers may cause us to reduce the prices we charge for our services and solutions. The primary sources of pricing pressure include:

- competitors offering our customers services at reduced prices, or bundling and pricing services in a manner that makes it difficult for us to compete. For example, a competing provider of Internet infrastructure services might offer its services at lower rates than we do, or a competing domain name registry provider may reduce its prices for domain name registration;
- customers with a significant volume of transactions may have enhanced leverage in pricing negotiations with us; and
- if our prices are too high, potential customers may find it economically advantageous to handle certain functions internally instead of using our services.

We may not be able to offset the effects of any price reductions by increasing the number of transactions we handle or the number of customers we serve, by generating higher revenue from enhanced services or by reducing our costs.

Our expansion into international markets may be subject to uncertainties that could increase our costs to comply with regulatory requirements in foreign jurisdictions, disrupt our operations, and require increased focus from our management.

We currently provide services to customers located in various international locations such as Brazil, Taiwan and China. We intend to pursue additional international business opportunities. International operations and business expansion plans are subject to numerous additional risks, including:

- economic and political risks in foreign jurisdictions in which we operate or seek to operate;
- difficulties in enforcing contracts and collecting receivables through foreign legal systems;
- differences in foreign laws and regulations, including foreign tax, intellectual property, privacy, labor and contract law, as well as unexpected changes in legal and regulatory requirements;
- differing technology standards and pace of adoption;
- export restrictions on encryption and other technologies;
- fluctuations in currency exchange rates and any imposition of currency exchange controls;
- increased competition by local, regional, or global companies; and
- difficulties associated with managing a large organization spread throughout various countries.

If we continue to expand our business globally, our success will depend, in large part, on our ability to anticipate and effectively manage these and other risks associated with our international operations. However, any of these factors could adversely affect our international operations and, consequently, our operating results.

If we are not successful in growing our new Information Services business at the rate that we anticipate, our operating results could be negatively impacted.

The operations of Targus Information Corporation (“TARGUSinfo”), which we acquired in November 2011, comprise our new Information Services segment. We are shifting our business to focus increasingly on sales of information services in addition to our carrier and enterprise services. Our ability to successfully grow our information services business depends on a number of different factors, including market acceptance of our information services, the expansion of our information services capabilities and geographic coverage, and continued public and regulatory acceptance of data usage for the provision of our information services, among others. If we are not successful in growing our information services business at the rate that we anticipate, we may not meet expected growth and gross margin projections or expectations, and our operating results, prospects and the market price of our securities could be adversely affected.

We may be unable to complete acquisitions, or we may undertake acquisitions that increase our costs or liabilities or are disruptive to our business.

We have made a number of acquisitions in the past, and one of our strategies is to pursue acquisitions selectively in the future. We may not be able to locate acquisition candidates at prices that we consider appropriate or on terms that are satisfactory to us. If we do identify an appropriate acquisition candidate, we may not be able to successfully negotiate the terms of the acquisition or, if the acquisition occurs, integrate the acquired business into our existing business. Acquisitions of businesses or other material operations may require additional debt or equity financing, resulting in additional leverage or dilution to our stockholders.

Integration of acquired business operations could disrupt our business by diverting management away from day-to-day operations. The difficulties of integration may be increased by the necessity of coordinating geographically dispersed organizations, integrating personnel with disparate business backgrounds and combining different corporate cultures. It is also possible that the integration process could result in the loss of key employees, the disruption of each company’s ongoing businesses or inconsistencies in standards, controls, procedures and policies that adversely affect our ability to maintain relationships with customers, suppliers, distributors, creditors, or lessors, or to achieve the anticipated benefits of the acquisition.

We may not realize cost efficiencies or synergies or other benefits that we anticipated when selecting our acquisition candidates, and we may be required to invest significant capital and resources after acquisition to maintain or grow the businesses that we acquire. In addition, we may need to record write-downs from impairments of goodwill, intangible assets, or long-lived assets, or record adjustments to the purchase price that occur after the closing of the transaction, which could reduce our future reported earnings. If we fail to successfully integrate and support the operations of the businesses we acquire, or if anticipated revenue enhancements and cost savings are not realized from these acquired businesses, our business, results of operations and financial condition would be materially adversely affected. Further, acquired businesses may have liabilities, neutrality-related risks or adverse operating issues that we fail to discover through due diligence prior to the acquisition. The failure to discover such issues prior to such acquisition could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Risks related to financial market conditions

We may be unable to raise additional capital, if needed, or to raise capital on favorable terms.

The general economic and capital market conditions in the United States and other parts of the world have deteriorated significantly since 2008 and have adversely affected access to capital and increased the cost of capital. If funds generated by our operations or available under our 2013 Credit Facilities are insufficient to fund our future activities, including acquisitions, organic business ventures, or capital expenditures, we may need to raise additional funds through public or private equity or debt financing. If unfavorable capital market conditions

exist when we seek additional financing, we may not be able to raise sufficient capital on favorable terms or at all. Failure to obtain capital on a timely basis could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and we may not be able to fund further organic and inorganic growth of our business.

Risks related to the notes and our other indebtedness

Our indebtedness could adversely affect our financial condition and prevent us from fulfilling our obligations under the notes.

As of January 22, 2013, borrowings under our 2013 Credit Facilities and Notes was approximately \$632.8 million, and we had unused revolving commitments of \$192.2 million (after giving effect to \$7.8 million of outstanding letters of credit). In addition, the 2013 Term Facility allows us to request one or more increases to the available term commitments under such facility. We are entitled to request such increases in an amount such that, after giving effect to such increases, either (a) the aggregate amount of increases does not exceed \$400 million or (b) our consolidated secured leverage ratio on a pro forma basis after giving effect to any such increase is below 2.50 to 1.00. As of January 22, 2013, the total amount of such potential incremental increases we could request was approximately \$659.5 million.

Subject to the limits contained in the credit agreement that governs our 2013 Term Facility, the indenture that governs the Notes and our other debt instruments, we may be able to incur substantial additional debt from time to time to finance investments or acquisitions, or for other general corporate purposes. If we do so, the risks related to our level of debt could intensify. Specifically, our level of debt could have important consequences to the holders of our securities, including the following:

- making it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to the Notes and our other debt;
- limiting our ability to obtain additional financing to fund future acquisitions or other general corporate requirements;
- requiring a substantial portion of our cash flows to be dedicated to debt service payments instead of other purposes, thereby reducing the amount of cash flows available for acquisitions and other general corporate purposes;
- increasing our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions;
- exposing us to the risk of increased interest rates as certain of our borrowings, including borrowings under our 2013 Term Facility, are at variable rates of interest;
- limiting our flexibility in planning for and reacting to changes in the industry in which we compete;
- placing us at a disadvantage compared to other, less leveraged competitors; and
- increasing our cost of borrowing.

In addition, the indenture that governs the Notes and the credit agreement that governs our 2013 Term Facility contain restrictive covenants that limit our ability to engage in activities that may be in our long-term best interest. Our failure to comply with those covenants could result in an event of default which, if not cured or waived, could result in the acceleration of all our debt.

We may not be able to generate sufficient cash to service all of our indebtedness, and may be forced to take other actions to satisfy our obligations under our indebtedness, which may not be successful.

Our ability to make scheduled payments on or refinance our debt obligations depends on our financial condition and operating performance, which are subject to prevailing economic and competitive conditions and to certain financial, business, legislative, regulatory and other factors beyond our control. We may be unable to maintain a level of cash flows from operating activities sufficient to permit us to pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest on our indebtedness.